

Traffic Signals May Not Eliminate Collisions...

...In fact, in most instances, collisions and severe injuries increase after signals are

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices suggests that signals should not be installed under the premise of reducing collisions, unless five or more occur per year. In addition, the Schoene Study indicated that an increase in collisions should not be expected at intersections having fewer than ten right-angle collisions per year prior to signalization.

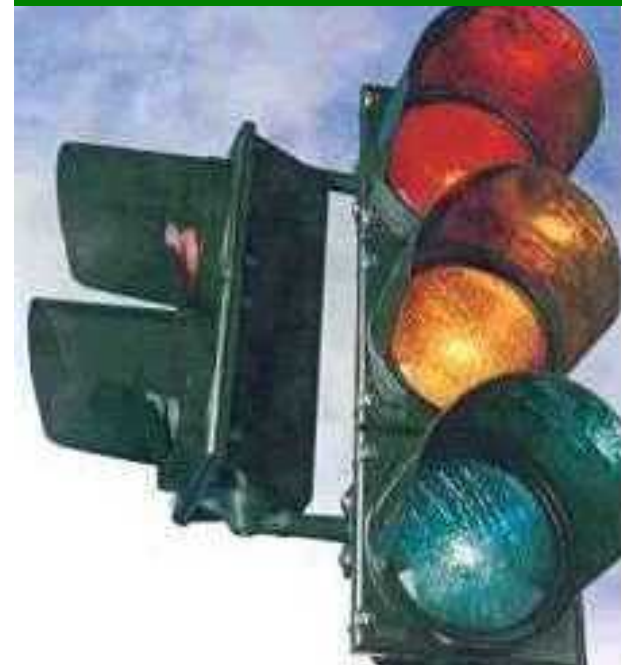
The purpose of signals is to improve overall traffic flow. Signals can be helpful in reducing right-angle collisions under certain circumstances, but almost always increase in other types of collisions such as rear-end and left turn collisions. As well, signals can also lull pedestrians into a false sense of security.

A Traffic Safety Message
From the
City of Springfield
Public Works Department



For more information:
417-864-1980
www.ci.springfield.mo.us/egov/publicworks/traffic

Will A Traffic Signal Reduce Crashes At Our Intersection?



*City of Springfield
Traffic Engineering Division*

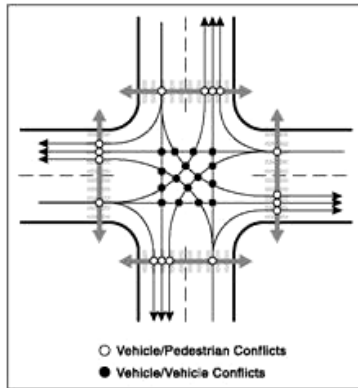
Traffic Engineers Compare Existing Conditions...

...against guidelines established after many years of study.

If conditions do not meet established guidelines, signalization will only cause more collisions, congestion and delay. When these conditions are met, an engineer then needs to consider geometric conditions and spacing to ascertain whether or not a signal could be helpful.

Signals installed at collector and local street intersections may be necessary to improve

access to major streets, but they can result in more neighborhood cut-through traffic.



Traffic Engineers Consider These Points...

...when deciding if a traffic signal will help more than it will hurt.

- Is congestion severe enough to create extraordinary frustration?
- Is traffic so heavy that drivers on side streets try to cross when it is unsafe?
- Is there a large number of pedestrians waiting to cross a wide, high speed and busy street?
- Does the age and number of school children crossing the street require special controls? If so, is a traffic signal the best solution?
- Would a signal allow for a smooth flow of traffic and not adversely affect safety by causing gridlock with a nearby signal?

REMEMBER

Traffic Signals Can:

- ✧ Increase Collisions
- ✧ Increase Neighborhood Cut-Through Traffic
- ✧ Give Pedestrians a False Sense of Security